charge of domestic waste of Bhopal through the various drains joining the river. However, untreated effluents from the Mandideep industrial area are not discharged into the river. Accordingly, pollution abatement of river Betwa has been taken up under the National River Conservation Plan.

(e) Does not arise.

Environmental Activities in CRZ of Orissa

2142. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are examining the environmental activities according to the Supreme Court's judgement dated December 11, 1996 operating in the coastal regulation zone in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) In compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on December 11, 1996, Government have constituted an Aquaculture Authority under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. This Authority will deal with all issues relating to shrimp culture industry in all coastal areas of the country including Orissa.

Andhra Pradesh Government's Request for Permission to allot Forest Land to the Occupant

2143. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has asked for permission to allot lands to tribals and non-tribals who occupied forest land in the State and the State Government are ready to spare waste land in lieu of the forest land for afforestation purpose;

(b) if so, the action taken on the request; and

(c) by when the permission is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh have submitted a proposal under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for dereservation of 33 ha. of forest land for assignment of pattas to tribals in Polavaram range in West Godawari district. The proposal has been received in the Ministry on 19.2.97 and is being processed.

(c) Expeditious action will be taken to take a decision on the proposal if it is found complete in all respects and within the policy framework.

Newsitem Captioned "Import of Hazardous Waste Management"

2144. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'Statesman', dated 16th February, 1997, under the caption "Import of hazardous waste continues";

(b) whether hazardous waste is still flooding India despite the import ban by the Delhi High Court, in blatant violation not only of Indian law but also of the Basel Convention on trans-boundary movement thereof; and

(c) the reason for Government being unable to stop the import of such waste which is a serious environmental and health hazard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The import of hazardous wastes is regulated under rule-11 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, notified by the Government of India, Ministry of Envi-

ronment and Forests, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. According to these rules (rule-11), the import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is banned for dumping and disposal. However, import of such wastes is allowed for processing or reuse as raw materials after examining each case on merit. The imports of hazardous wastes are also examined as per the obligations under the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. In April 1995, the Export-Import Policy was amended and hazardous wastes were placed in the restricted list. As per the policy, imports are permitted only against a licence issued by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). In compliance with the orders passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, no imports of hazardous wastes are being permitted.

निजी क्षेत्र के संस्थानों को वन भूमि पट्टे पर दिया जाना

2145. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत वर्षों के दौरान कतिपय राज्य सरकारों ने निजी संस्थानों को वन भूमि पट्टे पर दी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान किन-किन राज्य सरकारों ने निजी संस्थानों को कितनी-कितनी वन भूमि पट्टे पर दी है और इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि निजी क्षेत्र के संस्थानों को इस प्रकार वन भूमि पट्टे पर देने से न केवल राष्ट्रीय वन नीति का घोर उल्लंघन हुआ है बल्कि इससे (वन संरक्षण) अधिनियम, की भी अवमानना हुई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (प्रो॰ सैफुद्दीन सोज़): (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है तथा सदन के पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

Menace of Big Cats in Pauri Garhwal

2146. **SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of persons have been killed by 'Big Cats' in Rikhnikhal and Beronkhal areas of District Pauri Garhwal, U.P., as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated the 15th February, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the persons killed and injured by the said Cats since January, 1996;

(c) whether any compensation has been paid to them, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to apprehend those Cats?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh have reported the following number of persons killed/injured by leopard in the said area:—

	Killed	Injured
Rikhnikhal	02	01
Beronkhal	04	Nil
Total:	06	01

(c) Action is being taken by the State Government for the payment of compensation/ex-gratia payment in these cases.

(d) The leopard was declared maneater and trapped by the Wildlife staff.

Population of Gir Lions

2147. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Government have evaluated the total number of lions in Gir forests of Gujarat;